

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00805 171228Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----171233Z 038391 /47

O R 171035Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6122
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1378
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0805

MAPUTO FOR YOUNG PARTY

MADRID FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: PFOR, WA, SF
SUB: NAMIBIA: WHITE LEADERS INDICATE FLEXIBILITY
IN PREPARATION FOR REFERENDUM

1. DURING LAST FEW DAYS BEFORE TODAY'S (MAY 17) REFERENDUM ON
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00805 171228Z

TURNHALLE PROPOSALS AMONG WHITE POPULATION, SEVERAL LEADING
NAMIBIAN POLITICIANS HAVE GIVEN
INTERVIEWS OR MADE SPEECHES INDICATING A CERTAIN DEGREE
OF FLEXIBILITY IN ATTEMPTING TO MEET ATTITUDES OF THE
WESTERN POWERS. NATIONAL PARTY LEADER A.H. DU PLESSIS TOLD
AN AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWER THAT HE COULD
ACCEPT THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND THAT

THOUGHT HAD TO BE GIVEN TO DESIGN OF A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OF SOME KIND THAT COULD FIT THE NEEDS OF THE SITUATION. HE COULD FORESEE ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE IN WHICH SWAPO COULD ALSO BE A PARTICIPANT.

2. DR. PAUL VAN DER MERWE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM SWA, CALLED FOR A NATIONWIDE ELECTION IN NAMIBIA WITHIN A YEAR, INCLUDING SWAPO. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE REFERENDUM TO BE HELD MAY 17 WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NO EFFECT ON WORLD OPINION. HE THOUGHT THAT AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY THE TURNHALLE SHOULD PROMPTLY BE INSTALLED, FOLLOWED BY ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS. HE SUPPORTED SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION OF THE ELECTIONS BUT WAS OPPOSED TO UN SUPERVISION, SINCE THIS AMOUNTED TO RECOGNIZING UN AUTHORITY OVER THE TERRITORY.

3. DIRK MUDGE CHARACTERIZED RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FIVE AS AN EFFORT TO FIND COMMON GROUND TO THE ADVANTAGE BOTH OF THE WEST AND OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THESE DISCUSSION MADE THE TURNHALLE PROCEDURES INVALID OR THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS USELESS, AND THOUGHT THERE WAS MUCH TO BE GAINED BY DISCUSSING MATTERS OF PROCEDURE WITH THE WEST.

5. HERERO CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUNO, IN ANTICIPATION OF NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SWAPO, TOLD REPORTERS HE ENDORSED THE IDEA OF CONVERTING THE TURNHALLE DELEGATIONS INTO A POLITICAL FRONT. HE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00805 171228Z

EXPECTED THAT SUCH ELECTIONS WOULD SHOW THAT SWAPO DID NOT ENJOY AS MUCH SUPPORT AS HAD BEEN ASSUMED BY SOME INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

5. THE APPEARANCE IN WINDHOEK OF POSTERS BEARING PICTURES OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WITH THE REQUEST THAT WHITES NOT VOTE BROUGHT SHARP REACTION FROM EBEN VAN ZIJL, WHO CHARACTERIZED THIS AS AN EFFORT TO MISLEAD THE WHITE POPULATION. VORSTER HAD SAID THAT IT WAS FOR THE PEOPLE OF SWA TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. HE COULD NOT ADVISE THEM TO VOTE YES OR NO TO THE REFERENDUM QUESTION "ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES ACCEPTED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE?" VAN ZIJL CALLED FOR AN OVERWHELMING "YES" VOTE TO MAKE POSITION OF WHITES CLEAR.

6. ABOUT 52,000 WHITE ARE REGISTERED AS VOTERS. THIS

DOES NOT INCLUDE SOME 7 TO 8,000 GERMAN NATIONALS WHO HAVE RETAINED GERMAN CITIZENSHIP AND ARE THUS NOT ENTITLED TO VOTE. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THIS GROUP, HOWEVER, TO APPEAR BEFORE LOCAL MAGISTRATES IN ORDER TO STATE THEIR OPINION ON THE QUESTION. THEY MUST ESTABLISH THEIR IDENTITY EITHER WITH THE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' RESIDENCE, OR OWNERSHIP OF FIXED PROPERTY WORTH AT LEAST 15,000 RAND, IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN AN "OPINION POLL" WHICH ASKS THE IDENTICAL REFERENDUM QUESTION. SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN RESIDENTS OF WALVIS BAY, CONSIDERED A PART OF SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF, ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REFERENDUM. RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME KNOWN SOMETIME DURING THE COURSE OF THE NIGHT FOLLOWING CLOSING OF POLLS AT 9 P.M.

NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WA, SF, (DU PLESSIS, AH), (VAN DER MERWE, PAUL), (MUDGE, DIRK), (KAPUUO, CLEMENS)
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